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BOOK REVIEWS.

COMMENTARIES ON THE LAW OF STATUTORY CRIMES, including the Written Laws and their Interpretation in General; What is Special to the Criminal Law, and the Specific Statutory Offences as to both Law and Procedure. By JOEL PRENTISS BISHOP. Third edition, revised and enlarged, by Marion C. Early, of the St. Louis Bar. Chicago: T. H. Flood & Co., 1901.

The addition of about four thousand citations, some few additions to the text itself, and the explanation of the text by copious notes, represent the contributions made to Mr. Bishop's work by the editor of the present edition.

Bishop's "Law of Statutory Crimes," supplementing the "Criminal Law" and "Criminal Procedure" of the same author, completes a series covering the whole field of criminal law, evidence, pleading and practice. The "Law of Statutory Crimes" treats of the interpretation of statutes in general, of special interpretations pertaining to the criminal law, of statutory extensions of common-law offences, and of specific offences more purely statutory. Under the last-mentioned head are included discussions on the statutes relating to polygamy, seduction, adultery, fornication, incest, abortion, carrying weapons, election offences, gaming, lotteries, drunkenness, selling intoxicating liquor, hawkers and peddlers, cruelty to animals, and the selling of adulterated food. Mr. Bishop's method is to treat each statutory offence as an entirety, telling first what the law on the subject is and how the statutes pertaining to the subject are generally interpreted, and then describing the procedure—that is, the essential averments of the indictment, and the quantity and nature of the evidence necessary to convict.

The best features of the book are its clearness, conciseness and accuracy. Although of a necessarily technical character, the style is lucid and vigorous; and the scope of the text is so comprehensive that it is to be doubted whether the notes of the editor add much to the reader's knowledge of the law. Perhaps it was a realization of the completeness of the original work that led Mr. Early to confine the subject-matter of his notes to excerpts from the opinions of the court in cases cited in the body of the work or in the notes themselves. It is somewhat to be regretted that the great majority of the American cases cited in the notes are from Western and Southern jurisdictions; perhaps Mr. Early found more copious illustrations of the principles of criminal law in the newer communities than the more settled jurisdictions of the East could have presented.

It seems almost superfluous to add that the book is one which any lawyer whose practice lies in the criminal courts can use to advantage.

H. S.